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Amended Claims - Marked-up Copy

1. A test animal useful in an animal model system for atherosclerosis, wherein the test animal is a non-human mammal susceptible to the induction of atherosclerosis which carries a vessel-restricting device applied to at least one of its blood vessels.

2. A test animal according to claim 1, wherein said vessel-restricting device comprises a cuff or ring placed around part of a blood vessel of the animal.

3. (amended) A test animal according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said vessel-restricting device is made of a plastic material, such as polyethylene.

4. (amended) A test animal according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein said animal is selected from the group consisting of monkey, pig, cow, sheep, goat, dog, horse, rabbit, hamster, Guinea pig, rat and mouse, preferably is a rodent, most preferably mouse.

5. A test animal according to claim 4, wherein said animal is a transgenic mouse with a disorder promoting its susceptibility to atherosclerosis, more particularly a disorder

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in its lipid metabolism promoting its susceptibility to atherosclerosis.

6. A test animal according to claim 5, wherein said transgenic mouse is selected from the group consisting of ApoE^{-/-}, LDL-R^{-/-} and ApoE3 mice.

7. (amended) A method for testing the atherosclerotic or anti-atherosclerotic effect of a substance, diet or treatment in an animal model system for atherosclerosis, comprising subjecting a test animal as defined in ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ ~~claim 1~~ to a test treatment with the substance, diet or treatment to be tested and analyzing the atherosclerotic or anti-atherosclerotic effect, if any, on the blood vessel restricted by the vessel-restricting device.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the vessel-restricting device is applied to the at least one blood vessel after the start but before the end of the test treatment.

9. (amended) A method according to claim 7-~~or~~-8, further comprising analyzing with the same animal, as a control, the

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atherosclerotic or anti-atherosclerotic effect, if any, on a blood vessel not restricted by the vessel-restricting device.

10. (amended) A method according to any one of claims 7-9 ~~claims 7-9~~
claim 7, wherein said test treatment comprising administration to a test animal of a substance to be tested as anti- atherosclerotic agent together with an atherosclerosis-promoting diet, and wherein another test animal, fed with the same atherosclerosis-promoting diet but without the substance to be tested, is used as a control.

11. (amended) A method for screening substances, diets or treatments to identify one having an anti-atherosclerotic effect, comprising subjecting each of the substances, diets or treatments to be tested to a test in an animal model system for atherosclerosis in which a test animal as defined in ~~any of claims 1-6~~ claim 1 is subjected to a test treatment with the substance, diet or treatment to be tested and the anti- atherosclerotic effect, if any, on the blood vessel restricted by the vessel-restricting device is analyzed, and selecting a substance, diet or treatment having an anti-atherosclerotic effect.

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12. A method for accelerating the onset and/or development of atherosclerotic phenomena in a non-human mammalian test animal comprising applying a vessel-restricting device to at least one of its blood vessels.

13. ~~Use of a non-human mammalian test animal susceptible to the induction of atherosclerosis and carrying a vessel restricting device applied to at least one of its blood vessels, for identifying substances, diets or treatments having an anti-atherosclerotic effect.~~